

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies  
188 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bennett:

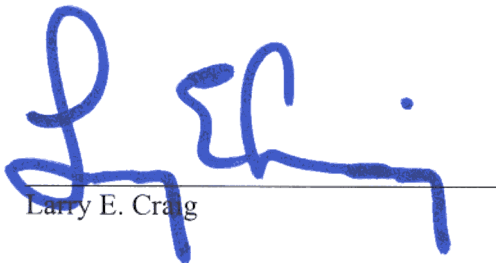
We respectfully request full funding at \$15 million for FY2006 for the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004, P.L. 108-412, which was passed by the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress and signed into law by President Bush on October 30, 2004.

Noxious weeds cause at least \$32 billion in damages per year by wreaking havoc in natural ecosystems, agricultural ecosystems and other managed ecosystems. Over 125 million acres of land in the United States are currently infested by just sixteen of the worst noxious and invasive weeds. On federal lands alone, weed infestations are spreading by approximately 4,600 acres per day. Noxious weeds decrease agricultural production, and cause job loss, water shortages, increased wildfire frequency and intensity, soil erosion, and environmental degradation.

P.L. 108-412 will provide badly needed federal financial assistance for weed management projects awarded on a competitive basis. P.L. 108-412 also will stimulate the formation of weed management areas where private landowners and public land managers will work cooperatively to reach common goals by managing noxious weeds of their collective concerns. P.L. 108-412 empowers diverse groups to form partnerships to manage noxious weeds, which is the most logical and efficient approach to solving this common and expensive problem. In addition, P.L. 108-412 will provide funds for early detection and rapid response to help affected states eradicate newly discovered noxious weed species.

Support of this issue by fully funding P.L. 108-412 in FY2006 is imperative to avoiding further exacerbation of the economic and environmental losses caused by this group of destructive plants. We respectfully request that full funding be provided to implement this important law.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Craig



Max Baucus



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Jeff Bingaman



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Mike Crapo



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John Ensign



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Ken Salazar



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Tim Johnson



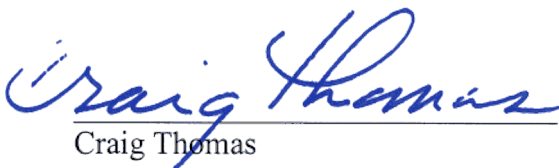
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Gordon Smith



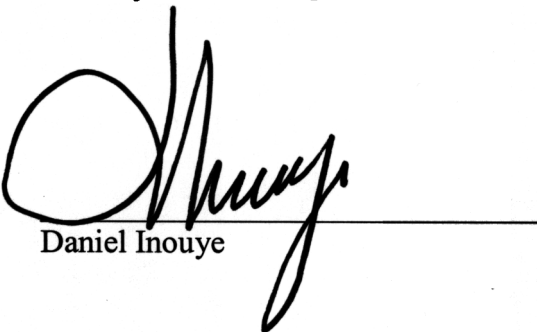
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Ron Wyden



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Craig Thomas



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Daniel Inouye

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2005

The Honorable Herbert Kohl  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies  
123 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

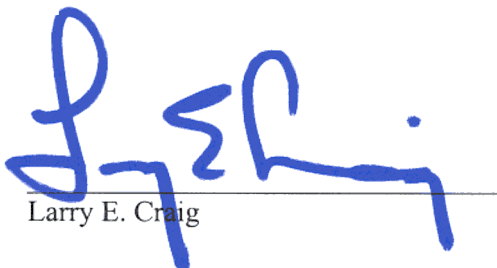
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Support of this issue by fully funding P.L. 108-412 with \$15 million for FY2006 is imperative to avoiding further exacerbation of the economic and environmental losses caused by this group of destructive plants. We respectfully request that full funding be provided to implement this important law.

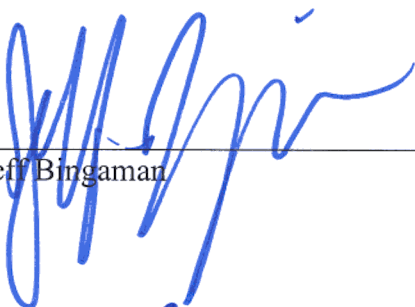
Sincerely,



Larry E. Craig

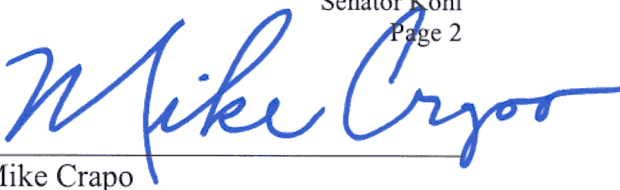


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